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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,190	06/25/2003	Kevin Thorne	SBI-129	2194
45488	7590	08/01/2006	EXAMINER	
WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON			AFREMOVA, VERA	
10333 RICHMOND, SUITE 1100				
HOUSTON, TX 77042			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1651	

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/606,190	THORNE, KEVIN	
	Examiner Vera Afremova	Art Unit 1651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/30/2006 has been entered.

Claims 1-24 are pending and under examination.

No amendments to the claims was filed after final rejection mailed 12/27/2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 9-19 and 24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,294,753 (Urist) as explained in the prior office action and repeated herein.

Claims are directed to a method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue wherein the method comprises steps of contacting bone tissue with an acidic medium, separating a demineralized bone tissue and a mineral-containing supernatant and further recovering and/or purifying osteogenic proteins from the mineral-containing supernatant by precipitating minerals and extracting proteins from the protein supernatant with extracting

agents. Some claims are further drawn to the recovering or purifying osteogenic proteins by filtering the extracted proteins with high and low MW cut off membranes. Some claims are further drawn to the use of guanine hydrochloride and/or urea as protein extracting agents. Some claims are further drawn to recovering or purifying the osteogenic proteins by diafiltration, by precipitating minerals with calcium oxalate. Some claims are further drawn to the acidic medium such as hydrochloric acid. Some claims are further drawn to lyophilization of the extracted/recovered/purified proteins.

US 4,294,753 (Urist) teaches a method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue wherein the method comprises identical processing steps of demineralization of bone tissue in acidic medium or hydrochloric acid (col. 3, lines 1-5), steps of extracting proteins with urea or guanidine (col. 3, lines 19-20), steps of high and low MW filtration (col. 4, lines 1-10), further steps of purifying the extracted proteins by diafiltration with urea solution, by precipitating minerals with calcium salts including calcium oxalate (col. 3, line 50), by redissolving and reprecipitating the extracted proteins (col. 3, lines 34-45) including redissolving with acid (col. 3, lines 54) and step of lyophilization (col. 4, line 37). The cited patent teaches both processing steps 1) recovering osteogenic proteins from a demineralized bone matrix that is demineralized with acidic medium or with hydrochloric acid (see figure) and also 2) recovering osteogenic proteins from a supernatant hydrochloric acid solution that is a "mineral containing supernatant" contained in the dialysis sacs (col. 3, lines 7-10). Thus, the cited patent anticipates the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4,294,753 (Urist) and US 5,371,191 (Poser et al.) and US 4,619,989 (Urist) as explained in the prior office action and repeated herein.

Claims 1-5, 9-19 and 24 as above. Some claims are further drawn to additional purification steps including diafiltration to remove guanidine and urea and/or to additional purification steps including redissolving and reprecipitating proteins in solvents including diluted acid, HCl and acetone.

US 4,294,753 (Urist) is relied upon as explained above and it teaches a method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue wherein urea is a preferred protein-extracting agent (see figure). It also teaches that both protein-extracting agents including guanidine and urea can be used in the method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue (col. 3, line 20). Thus, US 4,294,753 (Urist) is lacking a particular disclosure when both protein-extracting agents guanidine and urea are both used in the same or one protocol of recovering osteogenic proteins.

However, US 5,371,191 (Poser et al.) teaches the use of guanidine as protein-extracting agent in the similar method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue wherein the method comprises high and low MW cut off filtration steps of proteins extracted

with guanidine. The cited US 5,371,191 (Poser et al.) also teaches further purification steps such as diafiltration to substitute urea for guanidine (col. 3, line 45).

Although the method of US'191 encompasses protein extraction with guanidine from bone matrix that is demineralized with acidic medium but not from mineralized acidic supernatant, the cited US'753 teaches protein extraction from mineralized acidic supernatant.

Both US 4,294,753 (Urist) and US 5,371,191 (Poser et al.) teach lyophilization of recovered proteins and additional purification steps including redissolving and reprecipitating in various solvents including water and dilute acids (US'753, see figure) and including hydrochloric acid (US'191, see col. 10, lines 59-59-64).

Although the cited US 4,294,753 (Urist) and US 5,371,191 (Poser et al.) are silent about the use of acetone, the other Urist's patent (US 4,619,989) discloses that osteogenic proteins BMPs are insoluble in organic solvents including acetone. Thus, acetone washing of the final semi-pure preparations of BMPs would be obvious to practitioners with ordinary skill in the art and they would be motivated to do so for the expected benefits in removing from BMPs those impurities that are soluble in acetone.

Therefore, the claimed inventions taken as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made because all processing steps in the method of obtaining osteogenic proteins from mammalian bone tissue as encompassed by the presently claimed invention are taught and suggested by the prior art as adequately demonstrated by the cited references. Thus, the claimed invention as a whole was clearly *prima facie* obvious, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

The claimed subject matter fails to patentably distinguish over the state art as represented by the cited references. Therefore, the claims are properly rejected under 35 USC § 103.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As applied to the claim rejections of record applicants' arguments are essentially directed to the issues discussed in the final office action. As applied to the claim rejection under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by US 4,294,753 (Urist) Applicants argued that the cited patent teaches the use of a "demineralized supernatant" while the claimed invention require a "a mineral-containing acid supernatant" or "mineral-containing supernatant" for extraction of osteogenic proteins (BMPs) and that the cited patent teaches away by disclosing a repeated removal of minerals by dialysis in HCl solution (response pages 8-9).

This is not found persuasive because the cited patent clearly states that some small fraction of total BMPs are recovered from the HCl solution in the dialysis sacs (col. 3, lines 9-10) and this solution is "a mineral-containing supernatant" within the meaning of the instant claims because this solution contains at least some acid soluble minerals. Moreover, the fact that the cited patent recites a repeated removal of minerals by dialysis in the HCl solution demonstrates that the HCl solution in the dialysis sacs contains minerals. The cited patent teaches extraction of major fractions of BMPs from a demineralized bone matrix and, thus, it recites repeated removal of minerals by dialysis in the HCl solution. However, the preferred

embodiments do not constitute a teaching away and a patent is relevant as prior art for all it contains. See MPEP 2123.

The cited patent US'753 clearly states that at least some fractions of total BMPs are recovered from the HCl solution (col. 3, lines 9-10) that is “a mineral-containing supernatant” within the meaning of the instant claims and when read in the light of specification (example 6). The applicant’s example 6 describes that in addition to the recovery of proteins from DBM (from demineralized bone matrix) some fractions of total BMPs are recovered from “acid demineralization solution” (page 21) that is the same solution as the cited Urist’s HCl solution (col. 3, line 10).

No claims are allowed.

Conclusion

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vera Afremova whose telephone number is (571) 272-0914. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached at (571) 272-0926.

The fax phone number for the TC 1600 where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology center 1600, telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Vera Afremova

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July 27, 2005



VERA AFREMOVA

PRIMARY EXAMINER